

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- C1
1. (Amended) A hair bleaching composition comprising:
 - (a) a peroxygen compound;
 - (b) a buffering agent; and
 - (c) cholesterol and/or derivatives thereof or mixtures thereof;wherein the pH of the composition is greater than or equal to pH 10.5.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Twice amended) A hair bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the composition is greater than or equal to pH 10.5.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

- C2
9. (Amended) A hair bleaching kit comprising:
 - (a) a first package containing a peroxygen compound;
 - (b) a second package containing a buffering agent;
 - (c) cholesterol and/or derivatives thereof or mixtures thereof in the first and/or second package and/or in a third package;wherein the peroxygen compound, buffering agent and cholesterol and/or derivatives thereof or mixtures thereof form, when mixed, a hair bleaching composition according to claim 1 having a pH greater than or equal to 10.3.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

- C3
11. (Amended) A hair colouring kit comprising:
- (a) a first package containing a water soluble peroxygen compound;
 - (b) a second package containing a buffering agent;
 - (c) cholesterol and/or derivatives thereof or mixtures thereof in the first and/or second package and/or in a third package;
 - (d) a hair colouring agent in the second package and/or third package and/or a fourth package;
- characterised in that the water soluble peroxygen compound, buffering agent, hair colouring agent and cholesterol and/or derivatives thereof or mixtures thereof form, when mixed, a hair colouring composition according to claim 7 having a pH greater than 10.3.

Please add new claim 15 as follows:

- C4
15. (New) A method of reducing damage to hair, protecting hair from damage or repairing damaged hair which comprises treating hair with bleaching and/or coloring compositions buffered to a pH of greater than 10.3 wherein cholesterol is added to the bleaching and/or coloring composition.

Please add new claim 16 as follows:

16. (New) A composition, according to claim 15, wherein the pH is buffered to a pH of greater than about 10.5.